

Innovation Studio Staff Micro Residency

[Academic Year 2024-25]

A 4-day residency at Cove Park for RCS Staff facilitated by Innovation Studio

Tuesday 14 - Friday 17 October 2025

Please read through the Guidelines before applying

[Click here to submit a Note of Interest](#)

Innovation Studio empowers the RCS community by supporting creative experimentation, collaboration, and interdisciplinary work.

What is the Innovation Studio Staff Micro Residency?

The Innovation Studio Staff Micro Residency is an opportunity for staff members to step away from their busy schedules and connect with their own creative practice, as well as foster connections with others. It could offer the chance to:

- Explore solo research and experimentation.
- Develop an idea that you don't currently have space for.
- Take time away from your schedule to reflect on your practice and future plans.
- Peer to peer sharing on existing practices at RCS.
- Refresh your teaching practice and find new inspiration.

The staff residency is facilitated and there will be a light programme of activities to guide you through the residency.

Who can apply?

The residency is open to staff who work at least 1 day a week at the Conservatoire (0.2 FTE or 7 hours per week). All staff are welcome, not just teaching staff.

There are 9 places available on the Innovation Studio Staff Micro Residency.

This residency is for individual applicants. While collaborations may emerge during the residency, staff cannot apply to participate through joint applications.

Please note that if you were offered a place on the Innovation Studio Staff Micro Residency in January 2024 you are not eligible to apply for the residency in 2025. This is because there are limited spaces, and we want to ensure that all staff have an opportunity to participate.

RCS Work Commitments

We acknowledge that time constraints may be a barrier to participation. In order to free participant's time and avoid a pileup of work on their return, Innovation Studio will offset the costs for staff cover. This will need to be agreed between the participant and their line manager in advance.

Timeline

- Innovation Studio Staff Micro Residency opens Monday 21 April 2025.
- Note of Interest deadline: Monday 12 May 2025 at 17:00.
- Applicants will be notified by Friday 16 May 2025.
- Successful Applicants will be asked to confirm their place and provide supporting information by Monday 26 May at 17:00.

How to apply

If you would like to apply for the Staff Micro Residency, [please submit a Note of Interest here](#), before Monday **12 May 2025 at 17:00**.

Please note, as a requirement of our current funding, we report on Innovation Studio impact and engagement activities to the Scottish Government, UK Government and Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Your submitted data in this Note of Interest is stored securely, compliant to the [RCS Data Protection Policy](#).

The form will ask you for:

- Name, contact info, confirmation that you work at least 7 hours per week at RCS, and confirmation that you can make all the dates of the residency.
- A few questions on your current employment status outwith RCS work.

- There is an option to select if you identify from a historically marginalized background.

At least 5 places will go to applicants who identify as being from a historically marginalized background:

- *People from the global majority and those from the global south.*
- *People from working class backgrounds.*
- *Those who are neurodiverse and/or disabled people.*
- *Members of the LGBTQIA+ community.*
- *Care-experienced people.*
- *Migrants.*
- *People who are or have been homeless.*
- *Those with lived experience of the criminal justice system.*
- *Those who face barriers to opportunities due to mental health issues, substance misuse, and unpaid caring duties.*
- *Romany/travellers.*

All other data will be anonymised, and the attendees will be selected using random selection software.

Selected participants will be informed by 16th May 2025.

Participants will then be asked to fill out a form by 26th May 2025 to confirm attendance and answer the following:

- What they will focus on during their solo study.
- Areas of inspiration and interest.
- What group or solo activities you would find useful on the residency.
- Access requirements.
- Information for the participant handbook.

These will be followed up by a 1-2-1 meeting with Janine Matheson, the Innovation Studio Producer, prior to the residency.

If you are not selected as a participant, you will be automatically added to a waiting list (ordered using random selection software). Please note that if a participant can no longer attend, you may still be offered a place, even if you are not initially selected.

For those who have been selected, we require successful applicants to confirm their acceptance within 10 days of the offer, otherwise the place will be opened to the waiting list.

Access

Innovation Studio team will work with participants to build a schedule that meets the needs of the group and organise any additional support needed to facilitate engagement with the residency.

For example, access provisions could look like:

- Childcare friendly working hours.
- Financial contribution to childcare costs.
- BSL interpretation.
- Hourly breaks.
- Visual guides to cove park.
- Breakout spaces.
- Use of hearing loop systems.
- Language translation.
- Wearing of masks.
- Covid testing prior to attendance.

Cove Park Facilities

- Gender neutral toilet facilities.
- Main building is wheelchair accessible.
- There are 3 large working spaces: the Monument Trust room (can function as a movement studio), the main space (also the dining area), and the Robertson Trust Building. All of the spaces are wheelchair accessible.
- There is a small office space available.
- Participants will have opportunities for solo practice and research.

Accommodation

- There is accommodation at Cove Park for all attendees on the residency.
- One room is wheelchair accessible.
- Accommodation will be single occupancy rooms with a double/single bed with ensuite bathrooms and a small kitchen.

Travel

Travel to and from the Cove Park will be provided from the RCS building. If preferred participants are also welcome to make their own way, there and travel costs will be reimbursed. [Public transport routes are detailed here.](#)

Background

In January 2024 Innovation Studio ran a 3-day staff residency at Cove Park, as part of the pilot programme. The Staff Residency was conceived and developed by our Innovators in Residence Lora Krasteva and Leonie Rae Gasson after a series of interviews with staff and graduates. They explored what innovation means to people and how the Innovation Studio could help them achieve their innovation goals. A consistent thread in these conversations highlighted having dedicated space and time for connection, research and peer exchange. The residency format created a much-needed space between the day-to-day work of staff and their longer-term interests. After overwhelming positive feedback, we are delighted to embed this opportunity as an integral part of Innovation Studio going forward.

We take your privacy very seriously. Please find a copy of our privacy notice at:
www.rcs.ac.uk/policy/privacy